

BRIGHTLINGSEA  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

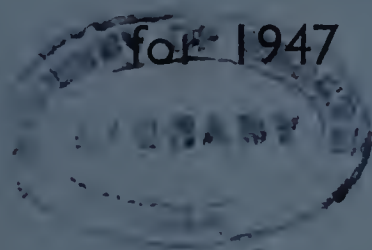


# ANNUAL REPORT

of

The Medical Officer of Health

for 1947



BRIGHTLINGSEA :

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1948.



# Brightlingsea Urban District Council.

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## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1947.

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Chairman : Cr. T. HANSON, J.P.  
Vice-Chairman : Cr. E. A. RUDDOCK.

### **Members of the Public Health Committee :**

Chairman : Cr. C. O. FENSOM.  
Cr. T. HANSON      Cr. H. G. POLLEY, J.P., C.C.  
Cr. I. C. OSBORN   Cr. J. ELLIS  
Cr. Mrs. H. HEMPSTEAD.

### **Brightlingsea and Tendring Shell Fish Committee.**

|                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brightlingsea Representatives. | Tendring Representatives. |
| Cr. I. C. OSBORN               | Cr. L. G. NEWMAN          |
| C. T. HANSON                   | Cr. Q. R. CLARKE          |
| Cr. H. WARREN                  | Cr. P. B. SMITH           |

*Town Hall,  
Brightlingsea.  
October, 1948*

**To the  
Chairman and Members of the Brightlingsea Urban District  
Council.**

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1947 which I consider shows the health of your district to be highly satisfactory. There is a further fall in the infantile mortality to 31.6 per 1.000 births, this is exceptionally low and shows the advances made in Child Welfare when this figure is compared with 146 of 50 years ago. For the third year in succession there has been an absence of both maternal deaths and puerperal fever.

The record of infectious diseases is likewise satisfactory with freedom from any serious infection. This is the 4th successive year the district has had no case of diphtheria reported. It is to be regretted so many parents do not avail themselves of the protection afforded their children by the diphtheria inoculations.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council for their assistance and consideration and also the Sanitary Inspector and other Officers of the Council for their help and co-operation.

I remain, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
J. RAMSBOTTOM.  
Medical Officer of Health.

## Section A.

# Statistics and Social Conditions in the Area

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

|                                       |         |       |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Area (exclusive of water) .....       | 2,873   | acres |
| Population (1931 Census) .....        | 4,145   |       |
| Population R.G. Estimate 1947 .....   | 4,310   |       |
| Number of Inhabited Houses .....      | 1,626   |       |
| Rateable Value .....                  | £22,094 |       |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate ..... | £82     |       |

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

|  | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| Live Births—Legitimate .....               | 48   | 46     | 94    |
| Illegitimate .....                         | 1    | 0      | 1     |
| Total Live Births.....                     | 49   | 46     | 95    |
| BIRTH RATE .....                           |      |        | 22·0  |
| Still Births—Legitimate .....              | 2    | 1      | 3     |
| Illegitimate .....                         | —    | —      | —     |
| RATE per 1,000 Live and Still Births ..... |      |        | 30·6  |
| Deaths .....                               | 28   | 38     | 66    |
| DEATH RATE (Crude) .....                   |      |        | 15·3  |

### DEATHS FROM DISEASES AND ACCIDENTS OF PREGNANCY AND CHILD BIRTH.

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| Deaths | Death Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births |
| Nil    | Nil  |

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

|  | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| Actual Number of Deaths (Legitimate) .....                             | 2    | 1      | 3     |
| Actual Number of Deaths (Illegitimate) .....                           | —    | —      | —     |
| Infantile Death Rate .....   |      |        | 31·58 |
| Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births .....     |      |        | 31·91 |
| Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births ..... |      |        | Nil   |

### CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH.

| Sex       | Age      | Disease                 |
|-----------|----------|-------------------------|
| 1. Female | 2 weeks  | Pneumonia               |
| 2. Male   | 23 hours | Jaundice of the newborn |
| 3. Female | 3 days   | Intestinal obstruction  |

# DEATHS FROM MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH AND DIARRHOEA (Under 2 years) NIL

## DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, CANCER & INFLUENZA

| DISEASE                        | Deaths | Death Rate per<br>1,000 Population |
|--------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------|
| Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ..... | 1      | 23                                 |
| (Non-Pulmonary) .....          | Nil    |                                    |
| Cancer .....                   | 14     | 3.25                               |
| Influenza .....                | 1      | 23                                 |
| Heart Disease .....            | 17     | 3.94                               |

Cancer and heart disease account for almost 50 per cent. of the total deaths.  
The cancer rate has fallen compared with 1946 and 1945.

## DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1947.

| Under 1 Year | 1—2   | 2—5   | 5—15  | 15—25       | 25—35 | 35—45 | 45—55 |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 3            | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0           | 0     | 1     | 7     |
| 55—65        | 65—75 | 75—85 | 85—95 | 95 and over |       |       |       |
| 15           | 12    | 16    | 11    | 1           |       |       |       |

There have been 66 deaths in 1947 as compared with 62 in the previous year. The average age of death was 70.1 years.

Below are the figures for the last five years :—

| Ages        | 1947 | 1946 | 1945 | 1944 | 1943 |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 0—55        | 11   | 8    | 5    | 17   | 6    |
| 55—75       | 27   | 26   | 30   | 28   | 32   |
| 75 and over | 28   | 28   | 44   | 29   | 48   |
|             | 66   | 62   | 79   | 74   | 86   |

## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1947.

| Disease                                       | Male | Female | Total |
|---|------|--------|-------|
| Tuberculosis of the respiratory system        | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Syphilitic diseases .....                     | 1    | —      | 1     |
| Influenza .....                               | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Cancer .....                                  | 6    | 8      | 14    |
| Intercranial Vascular Lesions .....           | 3    | 5      | 8     |
| Heart Diseases .....                          | 6    | 11     | 17    |
| Other Digestive Diseases .....                | —    | 2      | 2     |
| Bronchitis .....                              | 2    | 2      | 4     |
| Pneumonia .....                               | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Other Circulatory Diseases.....               | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| Other Digestive Disturbances .....            | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| Nephritis .....                               | 3    | 3      | 6     |
| Congenital Malformations and Infants Diseases | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| suicide .....                                 | 1    | —      | 1     |
| Other Violent Causes .....                    | 2    | —      | 2     |
| All Other Causes.....                         | 1    | 1      | 2     |
|   | 28   | 38     | 66    |

The number of deaths during 1947 is slightly higher than last year but the ages at death are practically in the same ratio. It is an interesting fact that when the age groups 75 and over is further sub divided into 75—85, 85—95, 95 and over 24.2 per cent. of all deaths fall within the 75—85 years period.

## COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

|                               |       | Brightlingsea<br>U.D. | England & Wales<br>as a whole |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Birth Rate .....              | ..... | 22·0                  | 20·5                          |
| Death Rate .....              | ..... | 15·3                  | 12·0                          |
| Infantile Mortality .....     | ..... | 31·6                  | 41·0                          |
| Diarrhoea under 2 years ..... | ..... | Nil                   | 5·8                           |
| Maternal Deaths .....         | ..... | *Nil                  | *1·17                         |
|                               |       |                       | *Per 1,000 births             |

### *Notifications of Chief Infectious Diseases per 1,000 population.*

|                                   |       |      |      |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------|------|
| Scarlet Fever .....               | ..... | 0·46 | 1·37 |
| Diphtheria .....                  | ..... | Nil  | 0·13 |
| Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ..... | ..... | Nil  | 7·16 |

## Section B.

# General Provision of Health Services

### Public Health Officers of the Brightlingsea Urban District Council:

Medical Officer of Health J. RAMSBOTTOM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., who is also Medical Officer of Health, Tendring R.D.C. and Acting M.O.H. Clacton-on-Sea and Frinton and Walton U.D.C., and Assistant County Medical Officer for the same areas.

Sanitary Inspector (Whole-time Officer) Mr. R. BOAST, A.R.I.C.S., Cert. S.I.E., J.B., also acts as Surveyor, Meat and Food Inspector and Officer under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919.

Waterworks Manager Mr. I. S. PRIEST (Whole-time Officer).

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological specimens are examined at the Emergency Laboratory, Essex County Hospital, Colchester, and Water Specimens at the Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66 Victoria Street.

Milk Samples are investigated by the Essex W.A.E.C., Writtle, Chelmsford.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES. No change during 1947.

### CLINIC & TREATMENT CENTRES.

A County Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is held on alternate Wednesdays in the New Church School Room. School cases are seen by the Doctor at the end of the Session and since these are few in number this combined system has worked satisfactorily. The number of school children attending has not, up to the present justified a separate minor ailments clinic.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION—Facilities for this are also available at the above clinic.

### MIDWIVES AND NURSING HOMES.

In addition to the District Nurse Midwife there is also a midwife in private practice. There are no Nursing Homes in Brightlingsea.

## Section C.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, ~~including~~ the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

SEE PAGE 14.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Brightlingsea has an excellent main water supply since the 18 inch bore came into operation last year. This gives an ample supply as is shown by the amount of water consumed during the past year which amounted to 44,046,000 gallons of which 32,655,000 came from the new bore.

This quantity gives a daily consumption of nearly 28 gals per head of the town population. The rest level of the water in the new bore is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the surface. It is found that with the pump working at the rate of 12,000 gals per hour for 10 consecutive hours, which represents the usual daily working, the water level in the bore after reaching 43 feet from the surface remains constant.

When pumping is discontinued the level rises to 12 feet in half an hour and at the end of one hour it returns to the normal level of  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

Chlorides have remained constant during the past 2 years.

The water is of good quality and has no action on lead. A recent analysis is given below:-

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Colour : Nil                       | Free Ammonia : <b>1.3</b>                        |
| Reaction pH : <b>7.5</b>           | Albuminoid Ammonia : <b>0.014</b>                |
| Alkalinity as                      | Free C O. <sub>2</sub> : <b>13</b>               |
| Calcium Carbonate : <b>285</b>     | Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs at 27° C : <b>0.15</b>  |
| Hardness (Temporary) <b>195</b>    | Metals : Iron : <b>0.12</b> Other metals absent. |
| Hardness (Permanent) : <b>0</b>    | Nitrogen in Nitrites Less than <b>0.01</b>       |
| Chlorine in Chlorides : <b>250</b> | Nitrogen in Nitrites : <b>0.0</b>                |

These results indicate that from the aspects of chemical analysis, the water is wholesome and suitable for public supply purposes.

There are still 14 houses supplied by wells, these are either farms or dwellings in the outlying portions of the district and in the case of the majority of them it is not a practical proposition to connect to the main supply.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE

1290 feet new sewer has been laid to the Council's new Housing Estate known as Bell Field Avenue.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS

Strictly speaking there are no rivers or streams in the district.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Houses with W.Cs' .....             | 1571 |
| Pail Closets .....                  | 15   |
| Houses with Cesspool Drainage ..... | 23   |

Most of the closets in the district are flushed from cisterns. There are still a certain number of hand flushed closets but the owners are called upon to provide fixed flushing cisterns if and when nuisances arise.

## SCAVENGING

Household refuse is collected weekly by direct labour and disposed of by controlled tipping on the Councils Refuse Dump.

## SALVAGE

Salvage is carried out in conjunction with scavenging and some 50 tons of salvaged materials have been collected during the year. For details see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

## SWIMMING POOL

Fresh salt water is pumped into the Pool at each tide and a complete change of sea water is made every fortnight. Chloration is carried out during the busy Season.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Council Houses .....                       | Nil |
| Other Houses .....                         | Nil |
| Buildings other than Dwelling Houses ..... | Nil |

## SCHOOLS

There are 2 Schools in the Urban District. The Junior School and the Senior School. These are periodically visited.

## Section D.

# Housing

The matter of housing is the most important public health question facing not only this Urban District, but also the Country as a whole. Equally if not more important than the erection of new houses is the repair and reconditioning of the older existing houses. If whilst new building construction is proceeding these latter could be kept static until such times that the supply of homes exceeded the demand, there would then be no difficulty in dealing with houses unfit for human habitation. There appears to be no possibility of raising the general standard of housing until this happy position is reached.

During 1947 three new houses were erected by private enterprise and two war damaged houses rebuilt. By the end of the year, 34 of the houses connected with the Council's housing estate in Bell Field Avenue were either occupied or ready for occupation whilst a further 6 were in course of construction.

## Section E.

# Inspection of Food

### MILK SUPPLY

Cowsheds and dairies have been regularly visited. There are on the Brightlingsea Register 7 producers and 10 retailers. Reports upon samples of milk taken during the year are

For particulars see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### MEAT INSPECTION

Routine slaughtering is not now carried out in Brightlingsea. Particulars of meat and other foods inspected see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### SHELLFISH (Mulluxan)

During 1947 1,294,900 oysters were marketed from Brightlingsea after passing through the cleansing tanks. This compares with :—

|      |       |       |           |
|------|-------|-------|-----------|
| 1946 | ..... | ..... | 2,325,364 |
| 1945 | ..... | ..... | 1,665,347 |
| 1944 | ..... | ..... | 943,082   |
| 1943 | ..... | ..... | 940,658   |
| 1942 | ..... | ..... | 809,600   |
| 1941 | ..... | ..... | 2,055,714 |
| 1940 | ..... | ..... | 2,021,293 |
| 1939 | ..... | ..... | 3,407,062 |
| 1938 | ..... | ..... | 4,361,107 |

## BRITEN OYSTER — PURIFICATION OF OYSTERS.

The well known Brightlingsea Oyster Laying are partly in the Tendring Rural District.

The Oyster purification tanks which were opened in May 1934 are under the control of a combined Brightlingsea and Tendring Shellfish Committee. These tanks were the first of their kind to be operated in this Country, the purification process has now stood the test of 14 years successfully.

The process of oyster purification is based upon the normal physiological digestive process of the oyster, which is used to thoroughly flush the alimentary canal of the shell fish and is, therefore, a natural self-cleansing process.

The oyster beds at Brightlingsea are mainly used as fattening grounds for foreign oysters, the brood oysters being laid in the waters of the Creek until of market size.

The following is a brief summary of the purification process.

(a) All oysters from the beds are taken direct to the purification tanks and distributed evenly on wooden grids raised six inches above the floor of the concrete tank.

(b) These are subjected to high pressure hosing in order to remove any mud or debris adhering to the shells.

(c) The shell fish are afterwards covered by sterile sea water for 24 hours at a temperature not below 54 degrees Fahr. It is estimated that 10 gallons of sterile water pass through the alimentary canal of the oyster every 24 hours and thoroughly flushes it. All faeces with the included bacteria which are discharged from the alimentary canal of the shell fish sink to the bottom of the tank.

(d) The tank is next drained and this is followed by a second high pressure hosing. Afterwards the floor is flushed with sterile water.

(e) The shell fish are again subjected to a second similar bath which completes the cleansing process.

(f) The draining and flushing of the tank is repeated.

(g) The oysters are then subjected to a bath of chlorine water, two parts per million. The effect of this procedure is to cause the oysters to immediately close their shells and cease functioning, at the same time it completely sterilises the outer surfaces of the shells. This immersion continues for one hour only.

(h) The chlorine bath is drained off and the oysters are packed in sterile bags which are sealed with the trade name " Briten " and passed to the market.

The actual process of cleansing takes place in the first two baths and is purely a physiological process of flushing with sterile water which contains no chlorine or other disinfectants.

The whole process is controlled by bacteriological tests and has shown excellent and consistent results.

There appears to be no doubt that an oyster that has passed through this system of purification is the safest possible shell fish for human consumption.

## Section F.

# Prevention of and Control over Infectious Diseases

The following figures show the number of cases of infectious diseases which were notified in the district during 1947.

|                |       |     |
|----------------|-------|-----|
| Whooping Cough | ..... | 22  |
| Measles        | ..... | Nil |
| Jaundice       | ..... | 62  |
| Pneumonia      | ..... | 19  |
| Scarlet Fever  | ..... | 2   |
| Erysipelus     | ..... | 1   |

During 1947 Whooping Cough accounted for 22 of the minor infectious diseases. There were no cases of Measles which was the prevalent disease in 1946.

### PNEUMONIA

There were 19 cases of Pneumonia notified during 1947, they were more or less evenly distributed throughout the year.

### JAUNDICE

This disease showed an alarming increase during 1947 reaching the maximum in September, than falling rapidly. No cases were notified in November and December.

### EPIDEMIC HEPATITIS

Owing to its prevalence has been made a notifiable disease in the Eastern Counties for the purpose of investigation since at the present time our knowledge of this infection is not complete.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE DISEASE

Epidemic Hepatitis is definitely an infectious disease accompanied by inflammation of the liver itself. All ages are liable to contract the infection but it is most prevalent amongst children and young adults. Infected persons first simply seem off colour characterised by lassitude and distaste for food, discomfort in region of stomach and perhaps feverishness, whilst it has been noted that adults frequently develop a pronounced distaste for tobacco. During this period the individual is frequently sleepy, irritable and miserable and in adults often indolent.

After an interval of 3 or 4 days the symptoms of jaundice of varying intensity appear with at the same time the amelioration of the more distressing of the symptoms. This jaundice may persist for weeks and a return after a patient has been apparently quite clear is not infrequent.

The germ causing the disease has not been identified but is probably a virus (i.e., ultra microscopic). The spread appears to be direct from a previous case but since the incubation period varies between 25 to 40 days it makes the investigation of the disease and its control very difficult. This long and indefinite incubation period makes isolation and quarantine of very little use.

### METHOD OF SPREAD AND INFECTION.

The means of infection was thought to be by the secretion from the upper air passages through coughing and sneezing. Recent investigations do not tend to support this contention however.

The germ definitely exists in the serum and intestinal tract of all affected patients particularly in the early stages and, therefore, the most reasonable suggestion at present appears to be that the source of infection is through the faeces of infected persons. This assumption is further supported by the fact that the incidence of this disease in the tropics follows that of dysentery much more closely than either pneumonia or Cerebro spinal fever (upper air passage infection). If this latter assumption is the correct one, the practical measures to combat the disease comprise strict cleanliness in the nursing of all cases which should be treated like typhoid. Infected persons should avoid the handling of food milk, ice cream or in the distribution of such. Administrative measures consequently include the insistence upon the greatest care in the preparation and distribution of food particularly the foods eaten without subsequent cooking after having been handled by the vendor.

### PRACTICAL

Acting on this supposition much has been done in this District during the year in direction of stricter cleanliness in the preparation and handling of food particularly with respect to ice cream and the cleanliness of utensils used in public houses and other places of refreshment.

### DIPHThERIA AND DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS

Brightlingsea Urban District has been free from diphtheria now for the 4th year in succession. The returns compiled from the Clinic Register for the 12 months ending 31st December 1947 show that the percentage of children immunised was:-

|                      |       |       |      |
|----------------------|-------|-------|------|
| Under 5 years of age | ..... | ..... | 47.4 |
| From 5 to 15 years   | ..... | ..... | 65.1 |

It is to be regretted that these percentages are much below those of last year. The statistics from the Ministry as given below show the undoubted efficiency of anti-diphtheratic inoculations.

### TUBERCULOSIS

Nine cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1947, six being pulmonary and three non pulmonary. The age and sex in each case are given below.

|                           |      |                               |      |
|---------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|
| Pulmonary—Female 18 years |      | Non-Pulmonary—Female 31 years |      |
| „                         | 34 „ | „                             | 41 „ |
| „                         | 30 „ | Male                          | 5 „  |
| „                         | 63 „ |                               |      |
| Male                      | 67 „ |                               |      |
| „                         | 82 „ |                               |      |

One death occurred of a female age 40 years.

The number of persons on the Urban District register at the end of 1947 was

|           |            |               |            |             |
|-----------|------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Pulmonary |            | Non-Pulmonary |            | Total Cases |
| 20 Males  | 15 Females | 10 Males      | 10 Females | 55          |
| Total 35  |            | Total 20      |            |             |

# Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

*Town Hall,*

*Brightlingsea, Essex.*

**To the Medical Officer of Health to the Brightlingsea U.D.C.**

Sir,

I herewith submit my annual report on work carried out by me, in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, during the year 1947, as follows :

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS

|  |     |     |       |
|--|-----|-----|-------|
| Houses :                                       |     |     |       |
| (a) General inspections for repair, etc. ...   | ... | ... | 30    |
| (b) Under Housing Consolidated Regulations ... | ... | ... | 8     |
| (c) Re-inspections ...                         | ... | ... | 68    |
| Overcrowding :                                 |     |     |       |
| (a) Houses measured for Form " B " ...         | ... | ... | 2     |
| (b) Overcrowding re-inspections ...            | ... | ... | 5     |
| Infectious Diseases ...                        | ... | ... | 2     |
| Disinfections ...                              | ... | ... | 1     |
| Water Supplies ...                             | ... | ... | 11    |
| Sanitary Conveniences ...                      | ... | ... | 12    |
| Sewers, drains, ditches and cesspools ...      | ... | ... | 24    |
| Cowsheds and dairies ...                       | ... | ... | 30    |
| Slaughterhouses ...                            | ... | ... | 4     |
| Food Stores ...                                | ... | ... | 19    |
| Bakehouses ...                                 | ... | ... | 8     |
| Shops ...                                      | ... | ... | 12    |
| Factories and Workshops ...                    | ... | ... | 36    |
| Schools ...                                    | ... | ... | 6     |
| Tents, vans and sheds ...                      | ... | ... | 1     |
| Refuse disposal ...                            | ... | ... | 15    |
| Verminous premises ...                         | ... | ... | Nil   |
| Rat Infestation ...                            | ... | ... | 43    |
| Public Houses ...                              | ... | ... | 11    |
| Complaints received and investigated ...       | ... | ... | 35    |
|  |     |     | —     |
|  |     |     | Total |
| Informal Notices served ...                    |     |     | 393   |
|  |     |     | 50    |

## STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED

|                       |     |     |     |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Housing Act ...       | ... | ... | Nil |
| Public Health Act ... | ... | ... | 2   |
| Other Notices ...     | ... | ... | Nil |

## DEFECTS REMEDIED

|  |     |     |    |
|--|-----|-----|----|
| Number of Nuisances and Defects found    | ... | ... | 44 |
| Number of Nuisances and Defects remedied | ... | ... | 36 |
| Number outstanding at end of year        | ... | ... | 8  |
| Number of premises disinfected           | ... | ... | 1  |

## DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE

No serious cases of rat infestation were found during the year, and the various small infestations were successfully dealt with by the Council's Rat Catcher.

As in previous years, the shortage of proper dustbins, and increases in the numbers of backyard poultry have been largely responsible for providing food and attraction for rats, and it is frequently difficult to carry out a course of proper poisoning where domestic poultry are at large.

Routine poisoning was carried out at the Council's Refuse Dump, and isolated test baiting showed that the town sewerage system is not infested to any appreciable degree

## SHOPS ACT.

Most shops in the district are small ones employing perhaps one or two people in addition to the proprietor, and both sanitary and ablutionary arrangements were generally satisfactory.

Lighting and ventilation were also fairly satisfactory, but temperatures in some shops were found to be inadequate during winter months.

Two informal notices requesting cleansing of sanitary accommodation were served during the year.

## SCHOOLS.

In order to reduce overcrowding at the Brightlingsea Primary school, an existing Infant School which had been used as an A.R.P. centre during the war, was re-opened after structural repairs and improvements to the sanitary accommodation had been carried out

The building is still not ideal for the purpose of an Infant School, being difficult to heat adequately, with rather lofty classrooms and windows placed very high in the main walls, but it is dry and well ventilated.

Heating arrangements at the Primary School are also inadequate and wooden floors of classrooms are situated below ground level without sufficient sub-floor ventilation, but it is probable that these defects will be remedied in the near future, under the new Education Act.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No smoke nuisances occurred during the year.

## FACTORIES.

Eighteen inspections were carried out at six factories where no mechanical power is used, and eighteen inspections were made at sixteen factories where mechanical power is used. Two informal notices were served in the former cases and three similar notices in the latter, the defects in question being as follows: Want of Cleanliness 2, Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences 1, Sanitary Conveniences not separate for sexes 1, Inadequate means of escape in case of fire 1.

Most of the factories are small concerns, the only large ones being the two shipyards, two clothing factories, a light electrical components factory, a firelighter factory, an electricity supply company and a gas works.

# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## (a) MILK SUPPLY

There are only seven milk producers in the district, and routine inspections were carried out in the spring and autumn. Two samples were taken from each producer during the year and, with one exception, the results were generally satisfactory. The main causes of unsatisfactory analyses still appear to be lack of personal cleanliness in milkers or inadequate cleansing and sterilisation of milk bottles, cans, churns, coolers, milking machines or other equipment.

The use of a chemical steriliser such as sodium hypochlorite has almost invariably resulted in satisfactory analyses of samples, and it is difficult to see why a legal standard of bacterial purity cannot be prescribed for milk, with provision for cancellation of registration as a PRODUCER in case of say three successive bad samples.

As the law stands at present, the most severe action which can be taken in the case of successive bad samples, is to withdraw the person's registration as a RETAILER, but he will still be able to carry on as a WHOLESALER, which registration cannot be cancelled.

In the absence of a prescribed standard for milk, it would be impracticable to take action under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for selling an article of food which was "not of the nature, substance or quality demanded,"

## PASTEURISED MILK

Only one dealer was licensed to retail pasteurised milk during the year.

## MEAT

During the year there has been a slight improvement in the quality of home killed meat sold in the district, but it is still considerably below pre war standard. All pigs slaughtered under licence, by private persons, were inspected, and routine inspections of meat stored or exposed for sale in butchers' shops were made.

The following meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption, and was voluntarily surrendered.

- 4 lbs. Beef. (Severe bruising, probably caused immediately before slaughter).  
128 lbs. Beef. (Bone Taint, probably due to carcasses being refrigerated before animal heat had left the bodies).

The undermentioned foods were also condemned :—

|                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 21 stones Herrings      | Decomposition                 |
| 1 stone Plaice          | "                             |
| 5 stones Haddocks       | "                             |
| 6 stones Cod            | "                             |
| 3 stones Smoked Codling | "                             |
| 16 tins Luncheon Meat   | (Blown or perforated tins)    |
| 31 tins Milk            | " "                           |
| 9 lbs. National Butter  | (Rancid)                      |
| 11 lbs. Danish Butter   | "                             |
| 14 lbs. sugar           | (Contaminated by dirt)        |
| 5 lbs. Tea              | (Contaminated by Vinogar)     |
| 21 lbs. Bacon           | (Bone Taint or Decomposition) |

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 tins Beans              | (Blown or perforated tins) |
| 2 tins Tomatoes           | "                          |
| 1 tin Peas                | "                          |
| 1 tin Beetroot            | "                          |
| 1 tin Meat and Vegetables | "                          |
| 1 tin Herrings            | "                          |
| 2 tins Pork Sausage Meat  | "                          |
| 1 tin Steak               | "                          |
| 1 tin Soup                | "                          |
| 1 tin Mixed Fruit         | "                          |
| 1 tin Peaches             | "                          |
| 2 tins Salmon             | "                          |

## BAKEHOUSES.

Routine inspections were made, and general cleanliness was found to be very satisfactory-

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE.

Weekly collections of refuse from each house has been maintained, and the refuse was disposed of by means of controlled tipping at the Council's Refuse Dump. Treatment of the refuse dump with spray containing D.D.T. or Gammexane, has continued and no serious nuisance from flies or other insects has been experienced.

The salvage of materials from refuse has continued steadily, and sales for the year were as follows:—

| 1947    |               | Sales during 1946 |
|---------|---------------|-------------------|
| Paper   | ... 35½ tons  | 31 tons           |
| Iron    | ... 14 tons   | 4½ tons           |
| Bones   | ... Nil       | 23 cwt.           |
| Bottles | ... 103 dozen |                   |
| Jars    | ... 114 dozen | 37 cwt.           |
| Rags    | ... 8 cwt.    | 12 cwt.           |

## WATER SAMPLES.

Routine samples of water were taken from the sources of Public Supply at three-monthly periods, and in all cases the results of analysis were satisfactory.

## HOUSING.

Numerous complaints of sanitary and structural defects were received from occupants of some of the older houses in the town during the year, and full inspection was carried out in every case. Informal notices were sent to owners of the respective properties and repairs were carried out as far as the supply of building labour and materials would permit. Most of the older houses are in a reasonably good state of repair, although there are several properties which are really only fit for demolition, but the shortage of new houses and the consequent difficulty in finding alternative accommodation for occupants of the unfit houses have prevented normal action being taken under the 1936 Housing Act.

## FOOD PREMISES.

During the year, attention has been specially directed to Ice Cream Manufacturers, and Public Houses. It is considered that, in the case of Public Houses particularly, the risk of infectious diseases being spread by glasses which are not washed thoroughly, is a very serious one which has been confirmed by the very primitive arrangements for washing glasses, which were found during inspections.

Frequently, the only washing facilities consisted of an enamel bowl placed under the Bar, containing cold water into which glasses were simply dipped before being re-filled. At the end of an open session these bowls sometimes contained an amber coloured mixture of water, beer and saliva.

Owners of all Public Houses in the District are being asked to install proper sinks, with running supplies of hot and cold water laid on, in the Bars of each House, and so far as possible are being persuaded to instal the sinks in positions where the operation of washing up is visible to customers. Routine inspections are also being carried out to ensure that adequate supplies of clean tea towels are available.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. BOAST, A.R.I.C.S., C.S.I.E.J.B.,

(Cert. Meat & Foods)

Sanitary Inspector.